

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/622,177

Applicant(s)

NIXON ET AL.

Examiner

Sunil Singh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's application filed 7/17/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 7/17/03 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 4/29/04.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David S. Kalmbaugh on 4/29/2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

**In the specification:**

Page 4 the "Brief Description of the Drawings" has been changed to the following

**--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

FIG. 1 is a plan view illustrating the modular structure of the near shore port security barrier being used to protect a vessel docked at a port facility from attack by a hostile watercraft;

FIG. 2 is a plan view illustrating the modular structure of the near shore port security barrier being used to protect a vessel anchored at sea from attack by a hostile watercraft;

FIG. 3 is a detailed top view of a barrier module for the near shore port security barrier;

FIG. 4 is a top view illustrating three barrier modules for the near shore port security barrier positioned adjacent one another;

FIG. 5 is a side view illustrating the wire mesh net and the barrier net support structure for the wire mesh net for each barrier module;

FIG. 6A and 6B is a detailed side view illustrating the flexible fence for each barrier module

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which overlaps an adjacent barrier module to insure that the near shore port security barrier is continuous;

FIG. 7 is a side view illustrating one of the end barrier modules for the near shore port security barrier;

FIG. 8A-8C illustrate the support bracing for the wire mesh net support structure attached to each fence post of a barrier

module;

FIG. 9 illustrates the hook mechanism used to connect the outboard pontoons of adjacent barrier modules of the near shore port security barrier;

FIG. 10 illustrates a tension-only synthetic line strap which is used to connect the inboard pontoons of adjacent barrier modules of the near shore port security barrier;

FIG. 11 is a detailed end view of the pontoon fenders at each end of the barrier module which are designed to protect the pontoon; and

FIG. 12 a block diagram illustrating the operation of the near shore port security barrier.--

**In the claims:**

Claim 1 line 16 before "end" --other--has been inserted;

Claim 1 line 18 before "vessel" --the--has been inserted;

Claim 1 line 26 after "upper" --end--has been inserted;

Claim 1 line 26 after "second" --pontoons--has been inserted;

Claim 2 line 1, "wherein" has been deleted;

Claim 8 line 6 before "moved" --be--has been inserted;

Claim 9 line 15 "tension" has been changed to --compression--

Claim 9 line 15, "vertically" has been changed to –horizontally–;

Claim 9 line 18, "tension" has been changed to –compression–;

Claim 11 line 16 before "end" –other—has been inserted;

Claim 11 line 18 before "vessel" –the—has been inserted;

Claim 11 line 26 after "upper" –end—has been inserted;

Claim 11 line 26 after "second" –pontoons—has been inserted;

Claim 12 line 1, "wherein" has been deleted;

Claim 18 line 6 before "moved" –be—has been inserted;

Claim 19 line 15 "tension" has been changed to –compression—

Claim 19 line 15, "vertically" has been changed to –horizontally–;

Claim 19 line 18, "tension" has been changed to –compression--;

Claim 20 line 1, "1" has been changed to –11–.

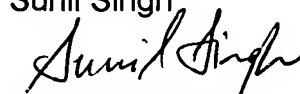
2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sunil Singh whose telephone number is (703) 308-4024. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Shackelford can be reached on (703) 308-2978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sunil Singh



Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 3673

SS



4/29/2004